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Letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward for your attention a statement by Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan regarding measures to improve the situation in Darfur (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omar B. **Manis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The attainment of comprehensive peace in all parts of the country remains a strategic national objective, one which we have been exerting keen efforts to realize.

The recent signing of the Abuja Peace Agreement by the Government of National Unity represents yet another milestone, and a national achievement along our path towards peace in the Sudan.

The signing of the peace agreement means the following:

- Bringing an end to war and bloodshed
- Addressing the humanitarian repercussions of war, the most important of which are the issues of displacement, migration and refugees
- Achieving reconstruction and development
- Releasing national energies to achieve sustainable development and well-being of citizens.

In the light of the above, it gives me great pleasure to announce to the Sudanese people the following measures and policies in the humanitarian field, which underscore the focal role of humanitarian considerations in peacebuilding. The taste of peace must also be savoured by those who have been denied it.

First: The allocation of 20,000 metric tons of food to the World Food Programme (WFP). This will help to fill the gap in food that has led to reducing by half the quotas of those targeted within the three coming months. This will restore the quotas to their full quantity. I hereby direct the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to immediately execute these directives.

I would like to thank all donors who have lent or announced their support, and all United Nations agencies working in Darfur. I call upon all brotherly Arab and Islamic countries to continue lending their solidarity and support. I call upon the Sudanese people to lead a public campaign for the support of their people in Darfur.

Second: I would like to call upon all concerned Governments and state governments and our partners in peace and humanitarian action to work together to help to implement an emergency limited term relief plan to address the humanitarian repercussions resulting from war, which will guarantee achieving the following two main objectives:

(a) Normalization of civil life in Darfur states;

(b) Achieve an expeditious transition to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Third: I announce the firm commitment of the Government to provide all available facilities for the organizations working in Darfur, and hereby reaffirm the Government's commitment to the fast track policy for humanitarian activities, and direct the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to coordinate its efforts with those of national and international organizations to execute the humanitarian emergency action plan, in addition to working towards removing any obstacles, and provide facilities to put that plan into action.

Four: The Government last month, allocated SD 150 billion for Darfur state governments in support of the provision of basic services and achieving development in those states. I hereby direct the Ministry of Finance and the state governments to begin the execution of the emergency relief plan to restore basic services to rehabilitate the areas of the displaced and the refugees, in preparation for their return home.

Five: The Government acknowledges that the above-mentioned achievements are tightly linked to the security situation on the ground, and I would hence like to reiterate the Government's firm commitment to uphold the ceasefire, and proceed effortlessly to undertake all necessary measures to achieve that end.

Finally, I call upon our brothers Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour and Dr. Khalil Ibrahim to take the courageous decision to join the peace march, since war can never be endless.